



# THOMPSON'S ISLAND **BEACON**

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Campus Scene—Dairy and Stock Barns

### A Trip to Wolfeboro

For many successive years, except during the War, a picked Band of twenty-five members has had the joy of traveling to Wolfeboro, N. H. to help observe the Fourth of July.

This year about half of the members of this group were away from the School and they returned with the Bandmaster, Captain Frank L. Warren, on the evening of July 2. Marching and concert practice was held and then the equipment was

packed and made ready for an early departure.

On the morning of July 3, directly after breakfast, the group left for City Point, where they were met by Mr. Albert Johnson driving one of the large touring busses of the Rawding Line. Mr. Johnson has been on this identical trip many times and it was gratifying for us to have him once again.

It was a beautiful, clear summer day, just perfect for a trip to the lakes region. Every moment of it was enjoyed. Around noon Alton Bay was reached and the boys were given the swimming facilities of the pier. For nearly an hour diving, swimming and other water sports were enjoyed. Then the lunch, which had been prepared at the School was unpacked and a pleasant time passed in the cool shade.

Soon the most beautiful part of the trip was begun. None can fully describe the beauties of the winding road along the lake shore from Alton Bay to South Wolfeboro. It is sufficient to say that visitors from all over the world come to see this magnificent panorama of lake and mountain.

The bus stopped at Lakeland Orchard where Mr. and Mrs. Roy Foster, our unofficial hosts, greeted us. The next stop was the beautiful Carpenter School, which was to be the band's home for the next few days.

It didn't take the boys long to unpack their things and get ready for a swim in Lake Winnipesaukee. In a very few minutes the boys were in the lake enjoying all of the facilities provided. The beach, the property of Brewster Academy, and all of its equipment, was placed at the disposal of our group.

We ate in a restaurant in the center of the town and after the swim supper was ready. Supper, as well as all the meals

served, was tasty and well prepared. Each member of our group is loud in praise of the excellent food service provided.

At 8:00 the band assembled on the bandstand for the first of three evening concerts. The large part of the audience was seated in automobiles, although many had made themselves comfortable on the grassy slopes. The boys played the concert with customary vigor and the hour passed quickly.

After the concert there were many places to visit, or if one so wished, a movie show. The Harriman-Hale Post of the American Legion, which was in charge of the celebration and our official host, did everything possible in the way of entertaining our group.

The holiday dawned clear and comfortably cool. The Band had three appearances that day. In the morning the boys had a prominent part in the street parade. The parade is always interesting with its many floats, many serious and a few humorous. It starts at ten o'clock and takes an hour to traverse the route. The second appearance of the band on the holiday was at the baseball game where the boys did a field drill. Following this drill those who wished remained to see the game. Wolfeboro lost an important league game to Ashland. The third appearance of the group on the Fourth was at the evening concert. The audience was larger than that on the preceding night and again the boys played with their customary excellence.

Plans had been made for the Band to take an all day sail on Winnipesaukee on Saturday aboard the beautiful and famous excursion motor vessel "Mt. Washington II." To most of us this seemed to be the high spot of the four day stay. It was a delightfully cool clear day, just perfect for such an outing. Our thanks to the management of the excursion vessel for the

wonderful hospitality shown us. The boys were in uniform, of course, and played at the various stops on the lake. The captain invited the boys to go all over the ship, including places where the ordinary tourist is not permitted. Many lake boats were met including the "Sandy", piloted by Linwood L. Meacham, '41, who recognized our group and waved a cheery "Hello."

The group arrived back at Wolfeboro in time for a swim and supper. The final appearance of the Band for this year included a repeat of the exhibition drill in the town square followed by a concert on the green. Towards the end of the concert, for the first time in the entire trip, a shower was experienced. Cover was

quickly found, the shower passed, and the concert was resumed.

After this final concert the manager of the Memorial Theatre kindly arranged things so that our group saw two excellent movies, a treat which we liked very much.

Never before, it seems, has this annual trip been so happy and successful. The thanks of our group is extended to all those in Wolfeboro who did so much to make the trip a success. If we were to mention names the list would be lengthy and we would no doubt omit some inadvertently. But to all our Wolfeboro friends a sincere "Thank You" and may 1948 find us back in your town for the Glorious Fourth.



Campus Scene—The Old Elm

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by  
**THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL**  
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT  
 CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.  
 TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

BURLEIGH M. PRATT . . . . . *Editor*

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## A Brief Historical Statement

The Farm and Trades School was founded in 1814 in Boston. In 1832 Thompson's Island was purchased and the Bulfinch front main building was completed the following spring.

Thompson's Island has played an important part in the historical development of Boston and the school has been a real pioneer in America's educational progress. Here the Indians celebrated many festivities. Myles Standish discovered the Island in 1621. The Island received its name from David Thompson who built Boston Harbor's first home here in 1626. The Island was the site of much military action during the Revolutionary War. Thompson's Island provided for Dorchester the first assessed revenue for an American public school. America's first boys' band was organized here in the year 1857.

The purpose of the School is to provide boys of excellent character an opportunity for complete home life, education, shop, marine and farm experience, a non-sectarian religious training, and abundant boys' life in sports for all, Boy Scouting, music and other hobbies.

The location, facilities, equipment and trained personnel combine to make this school unique in the broad opportunities for each boy to live and to develop his many talents. The School is financed by income from legacies, contributions and part payment by parents.

## Topics in Brief

June was a busy and happy month for all of us. All of the activities connected with Graduation were held as scheduled. We had very favorable weather, making it possible to hold our activities in the out-of-doors insofar as we wished. With the closing of the academic year we look

forward to a happy, prosperous summer vacation term.

During the summer term all of the boys will enjoy a vacation period with their parents. The vacation terms are planned so that our summer program proceeds with as little interruption as possible.

A wide variety of summer sports and games makes the vacation months a time of busy, healthy activity for our boys. Our baseball diamond, second to none in any school we believe, is in steady use. Softball has its adherents and we have an adequate field for this sport. Volleyball is a very popular summer game and a court for this game has been erected near the playground apparatus. Besides these principal team games there are individual sports such as tennis and horseshoe pitching. Tennis is played by a great many and our single court is probably the busiest spot on the Island during summer months.

Edward Rowe Snow, our good friend, has visited us several times during the past month and has brought several large groups with him. Mr. Snow has justly earned national recognition as a historian and lecturer of Massachusetts and New England sea lore.

Fourth of July was observed at the School by athletic contests followed by a period of water sports. In the evening a picnic on the beach was enjoyed, this bringing the holiday to a happy ending.

Our Band was at Wolfeboro, N. H. for four days over the Fourth of July on a particularly enjoyable excursion the details of which are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Our evening activities program was enlivened by two "hunts" recently with all of the boys taking part. The first, a scavenger hunt, produced plenty of laughs, while the second, a treasure hunt, was also fun provoking. Welcome prizes of candy bars were given the winners of each event.

With the marvelous opportunity at first hand for swimming, life saving and water safety it is no wonder that water



Water Sports

sports play an important part in the summertime life of our boys. Our waterfront program is directed by Raymond Thomas, our supervisor, who is an accredited Red Cross instructor in this work. Few, if any, of our boys fail to learn to swim, and the great majority are perfectly at home in the water. Many have studied and passed the standard Red Cross tests in the various courses of swimming and allied subjects.

Horticulture is a popular subject with our boys and some have attained much proficiency in the work. Most of our boys have their own flower gardens and the interests and results shown are truly gratifying. Prizes are awarded annually for excellence in the care of flower gardens and these awards help in maintaining interest throughout the growing season. The flowers may be used as the boys wish.

Many lovely bouquets make their way into our dining room and dormitory rooms. Then too, a gift of flowers is happily received by the boys' parents on visiting days.

Our farm has supplied our table with quantities of rhubarb, peas, lettuce, radishes and strawberries during the past few weeks. The outlook at present is for good normal crop production. If work produces results we should have a banner year for our farm crews have surely put forth every effort.

We have received many excellent notices in the press of Boston and other cities and we are gratified that newspaper editors continually strive to spread far and wide the story of the great work being done day after day here at Thompson's Island.

### Charles Hayden Memorial Scholarships

For seven successive years fifteen of our boys have been awarded a Charles Hayden Memorial Scholarship. Those so honored this year were:

Wiley L. Bishop

Berton E. Cadorath, Jr.

Paul Calloe

A. Wallace Fitt

Paul W. Horton

Howard E. Jennison

J. Lowell Keith

Paul D. Keith

Leonard N. Lapham, Jr.

Harold D. Lowery, Jr.

Maurice E. McAllister

Nelson W. Stearns

Robert A. Patterson

William T. Warfield

Donald Wood

### The Joyce Easter Meacham Track Meet

An outstanding event in the boys' activities is the Joyce Easter Meacham Track Meet held annually on May 30. These track meets were first held in 1936. The boys are divided into five groups, Varsity, Junior Varsity, Seniors, Juniors and Cubs, according to the ability and age of the boys. The important field and track events are held and those who place in the first five of each group are given points. At the close of the track meet the highest scorers of points are announced. There is thus declared a first and second place winner in each group.

The first place winners for the 1947 track meet were:

Varsity: J. Sheridan Higgins

Junior Varsity: William R. Bunting

Seniors: Nelson W. Stearns

Juniors: Richard A. Gavin

Cubs: Robert E. Carpenter

### Calendar 90 Years Ago, May 1857 As kept by the Superintendent

8. Caleb Bates, Esq. came from Hingham to pass the Sabbath with us. Self went to Dorchester and got flowers etc. from Parker Barnes Nursery to the value of \$14.

11. Availing myself of the kindness of the Managers, I started to-day at 3 P.M. for N. Y. to attend a convention. Took cars at Boston for Fall River and thence by the splendid boat Metropolis for New York where we arrived at  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 6 A. M. Tuesday.

12. The delegates to the number 60 met in the Chapel on Randall's Island at 11 o'clock and proceeded to organize for business.

13. Left N.Y. at 5 P.M. in the steamer "Connecticut" for Norwich where we arrived at 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M.

14. Owing to the sickness of my sister I resolved to visit my native spot in Dublin N.H.

26. This has been the first visiting day of the season. It was later than we usually have it as we waited for the new steamer "Nantasket".

### A News Story in Part

From the "New Hamp. Sunday News" July 6, 1947

"The Farm and Trades School was established in 1814. A bond between the school and the Town of Wolfeboro was established in 1832 when the school purchased Thompson's Island. The family of David Thompson was the first to found a home in Boston Harbor, and among the first to settle in that part of the king's woods, later known as Wolfeboro. The ties began strengthening in the early 1920's, when boys from Wolfeboro began attending The Farm and Trades School and graduates from that school began coming to Wolfeboro to finish their secondary school education at Brewster Academy. The F. T. S. band has participated in several recent Fourth of July celebrations at Wolfeboro."

An excellent photo of our band was printed with the article.

### Swimming

Swimming is by far the most popular sport in the School. During the warm weather we go three times each day, if we wish. When the tide is high we swim from the wharf and everyone tries to improve in diving skills. At low tide we swim from the float and usually someone has a ball so we play games of ball tag in the water.

Two or three boys can't swim and they stay up near the stone steps where the water isn't deep.

Thurmond Hood, Jr.

### The Jester's Comments

—Wherever boys live, and this surely includes Dormitory A, there is likely to be most anything found. Various experiences have schooled us against surprise or wonderment at any discovery, no matter what it may be. We are all in favor of freshly caught fish, but the longevity of such is by no means permanent, especially when stored in A House basement. We are not surprised at finding assorted rocks, shark's teeth, lobster shells or most anything tucked away in an unconventional place.

For instance, the latest discovery was made just today when a family of four baby hawks was found in a dresser drawer. "Jimmy" Barnett was blamed for the first audible chirping, he being very adept at all bird imitations. It so happened, that George Tangen was responsible. He soon moved the bird family from among his dress clothes and after failing to coax a home for the chirpers in an instructors' sitting room he finally put the birds in a nest in the flower garden area, where, it is hoped, they will remain.

Fortunately, we have no skunks on Thompson's Island.

### Additional Alumni Notes

JAMES T. RITCHIE, '36 has written seeking photos of his class and of the ball teams of his school years. These have been supplied. He still plays his trumpet occasionally. His address is 35 Pilgrim Road, Watertown 72, Mass.

GEORGE A. ROBIE '45, has finished his secondary school training and has been accepted as a student at the Gordon College of Theology and Missions, in Boston. He will begin his collegiate work there in September.

## The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, President  
Thompson's Island  
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Hyde Park, Mass.

HENRY A. FOX, '79, retired Chief of the Boston Fire Department keeps in touch with the School although it has been some time since he has paid a visit here. For many years he has been actively interested in the Richard Bell Fund and its success can be attributed in large measure to his work. His home address is 14 Alaric Street, West Roxbury 32, Mass.

GODFREY A. MEYERS, '97 owns and operates the Metropolitan Plating Company, a Boston concern, specializing in high grade plating to hotels and musical instrument houses. He is frequently at Alumni meetings and visits F. T. S. as conditions permit. His home address is 83 Palfrey Street, Watertown 72, Mass.

WILL FRANK DAVIS, '79, is doing journalistic work for a New York concern. He writes periodically and sends complete volumes of the "Rural New Yorker", a paper which our boys enjoy. He lives at 16 Clubway, Hartsdale, New York.

BERNHARDT GERECKE, '12, is in his first year as chief engineer of the Criminal Courts Building at 100 Centre Street, N. Y. C. This new building is probably the largest 100% fully air conditioned unit in the East and replaces the old Tombs, a city landmark. His address is 64-61 184 Street, Flushing, L. I., New York.

KENNETH A. PRIEST, '25, has been employed for twelve years in a manufacturing plant in Vermont. He recently sent us a series of booklets telling something of his work. His home address is Chester, Vermont, R. F. D.

EDWARD CAPAUL, '05, is the owner-operator of his laundry, located in Roxbury where he has built a large trade as he does only fine hand work. His deep interest in the Association is warmly appreciated.

A. CONRAD ERICSSON, '28, keeps in touch with the School through Alumni activities. He is employed by the Chase Brass & Copper Company in the Boston plant. His home address is 90 Elm Street, Cohasset, Mass. His help to our Entertainment Committee is much appreciated.

DANIEL E. SMITH, '21 manages a woodworking shop in Somerville which does fine cabinet work. He has been extra busy of late and was unable to be with us on Alumni Field Day. His home address is 11 Park St., Arlington 74, Mass.

NORMAN F. MORSE, '85, may be found on any day at his desk at 77 Summer Street, Boston. He is ready always with a warm greeting for any of his F.T.S. associates. Mr. Morse has a strong tie at this school, for he was born in the farmhouse at the southern part of the Island. Much of his childhood and boyhood was spent at the School.

GEORGE MAYOTT, '99, has for the past 28 years been employed at the Midway Masonic Temple in Chicago in which city he has lived for forty years. A year ago he visited Boston but did not have opportunity to visit the School. He lives at 6115 Cottage Grove Avenue., Chicago, 37, Illinois.